
XXII. *Remarks on the Genus Veronica.* By James Edward Smith, M. D.

F. R. S. President of the Linnean Society.

Read May 4, 1790.

THE genus of Veronica is one of the most familiar to European botanists. Its generic character is among the clearest and most decisive, and its species in general as well ascertained as those of most large genera. Nevertheless some of them are still obscure; and as this obscurity has in many instances originated with the great Linnæus himself, the removal of it is only to be expected from the investigation of his Herbarium and original manuscripts.

The various remarks which I have made on this genus shall be the subject of the following Paper. Not that they are all that remain to be made, but they are all about which I am certain. As far as they go they will serve to correct long-established errors, and will therefore be not quite unworthy notice; though they may hereafter be much increased, and perhaps corrected, by the enquiries of myself or others.

Dies diem docet.

I take the species on which I have any thing to remark in the order in which they stand in the fourteenth edition of *Systema Vegetabilium*.

3. *V. spuria* is *Veronica spicata angustifolia*. *C. B. Pin.* 246, as appears from the Sherardian Herbarium at Oxford.

10. *V. officinalis* β is most certainly a distinct species from the common α . It is plentiful on the Alps of Switzerland and France; and I have frequently compared it, in its native soil, with the common *V. offic.* growing in the same place.

I prefer the name of *V. Allionii*, which has been given it by Villars, to that of *V. pyrenaica*, by which Allioni has distinguished it, as it is by no means peculiar to the Pyrenean Mountains. Its specific character is as follows:

V. Allionii, spicis lateralibus pedunculatis, foliis oppositis subrotundis nitidis rigidis, caule glabro reptante.

Synonyms.

V. Allionii. Villars, *Plantes de Dauphiné*, v. ii. p. 8.

V. pyrenaica. All. *Flo. Ped.* 265, t. 46, f. 3.

V. No. 2. Gerard. *Flo. Gall. Prov.* 322.

Description.

Root perennial, creeping.

Stem round, smooth, procumbent, creeping very far.

Leaves roundish, or obovate, firm, rigid, totally different in substance from those of *V. officinalis*, smooth, shining, crenate, paler on the under side.

Spikes oval, dense, on long footstalks.

Flowers very numerous, violet-coloured, of a different figure from those of *V. officinalis*.

Villars mentions a variety with hairy leaves and stem, which I have never seen.

12. *V. kamtschatica*, Linn. *Supp.* 83, appears to me a variety of *V. aphylla*, only differing in the greater size of all its parts. The circumstance

circumstance of the hairs being articulated like a conferva, is common to both plants, as well as the ferrated leaves. We may rejoice to get rid of so uncouth a trivial name as *kamt-schatica*; and indeed all trivial names taken from the countries of plants, are now generally laid aside by the more accurate and scientific botanists.

15. *V. alpina* is now certainly known to grow in Britain, having been found in the Highlands of Scotland by Mr. Dickson in 1786, and not before in this island; what has been taken for it being either a large variety of *V. serpyllifolia*, or *V. fruticulosa*.

28. *V. multifida*. The synonym of Buxbaum applied by Linnæus to this plant, belongs in fact to *V. orientalis*, Hort. Kew.* The real *V. multifida* is only known by an original specimen in the Linnean Herbarium from Siberia, by which it appears to be totally distinct from *V. austriaca* (with which most people confound it) and all the varieties of that plant. Its leaves are multipartite, their laciniae pinnatifid, with the lobes decurrent.

Calyx quinquefid, perfectly smooth.

It appears not to turn black or brown in drying, as *V. austriaca* does.

The synonyms of Jacq. Flo. Austr. t. 329, quoted by Murray, ought of course to be excluded.

30. *V. latifolia*. To this species is now by common consent referred the *V. pseudo-chamædrys* of Jacquin, which indeed scarcely can be deemed even a variety. *V. Teucrium* and *V. pilosa* of Linnæus seem also to belong to the same species; but, as I

* *V. heterophylla*. Salisb. Ic. tab. 4.

have no original specimens of these two plants, I cannot determine the matter with absolute certainty. The long description of *V. pilosa*, Sp. Pl. 1664, is by Linnæus erased from his own copy, which looks as if he had not been quite clear in his ideas on the subject.

32. *V. agrestis*, and

33. *V. arvensis*, are both always found with white flowers in the environs of Rome.

37. *V. romana* ought certainly to be excluded. All its synonyms, in the first edition of Species Plantarum, belong to *V. acinifolia*; and the specimen in the Linnean Herbarium, from which the specific difference (as well as the description, *Mant.* 317) was made, is most certainly nothing else than *V. peregrina*.

V. romana, *Allion. Flo. Ped.* No. 289, t. 85, f. 2, *Villars Dauph.* v. ii. p. 19, seems also to me to be a variety of *V. acinifolia*.

38. *V. acinifolia*. The figure of Vaillant is excellent.

39. *V. peregrina*. Its specific character ought to be thus amended :
V. floribus solitariis sessilibus, foliis oblongis obtusiusculis dentatis integrisque, caule erecto.

Fig. 407 of *Flo. Dan.* seems to be intended for this plant, but it is one of the most wretched that can be conceived; the leaves are there represented as ovate and acute. Morison's figure, § iii. t. 24, f. 19, expresses tolerably well the upper part of the plant with entire leaves.

This species is a native of Sweden and Denmark. I have also a wild specimen gathered by Commerſon at Buenos Ayres.

The

The lower leaves are almost always obtusely dentated; the upper ones among the flowers as constantly entire.

V. biloba, Mant. 2. 172, is accidentally omitted by Murray. It is the *V. orientalis*, *Ocymi folio*, *flore minimo*, of Tournefort's *Corolla* and *Herbarium*.

The specific character and description in Linnæus's *Mantissa* are very faulty; and the synonyms of *Columna* (*Ecphr.* t. 290) and *C. Bauhin* (*Pin.* 249) have no kind of affinity to the Linnean plant.

The following description was made from the Tournefortian *Herbarium*, when I named the plant *V. rubiacea*; but as *V. biloba* is a good name already printed, it ought not to be changed.

V. floribus solitariis, foliis cordato-lanceolatis dentatis, calycinis æqualibus ovatis acuminatis trinerviis.

V. biloba Linn. exclusis syn. Bauh. & Columnæ.

V. arvensis annua, *Chamædryos folio*. *Buxb. C.* 1, p. 24, t. 36.

Root fibrous, annual.

Stem three or four inches high, erect, branched, downy.

Leaves on short footstalks, cordato-lanceolate, acute, ferrated, scarcely hairy.

Flowers solitary, on footstalks, about the top of the stem and branches, alternate.

Bractææ lanceolate, acute, entire, slightly ciliated, a little longer than the footstalks of the flowers.

Calyx of the fruit much enlarged, of four leaves, ciliated, equal, ovate, acute, each marked with three nerves, and not unlike the leaves of some species of *Rubia* or *Galium*: they much exceed the corolla and capsule in length.

Corolla small, white.

Capsule obcordate, downy.

Tournefort gathered this plant in the corn-fields of Cappadocia. It may be inserted into the *Systema Veg.* next to *V. acinifolia*.

I shall conclude this paper with the two following species of *Veronica*, described at the same time from Tournefort's Herbarium.

V. gentianoides *, *corymbo terminali hirsuto, foliis radicalibus lanceolatis acutis subcrenatis nudis.*

V. orientalis erecta Gentianellæ foliis. *Tourn. Corol. et Herb.*

V. erecta Blattariæ facie. *Buxb. C. 1, p. 23, t. 35.*

Gathered by Tournefort in Cappadocia, by Buxbaum in Armenia: Dr. J. Sibthorp also found it in his tour to the east.

This species ought to stand next *V. bellidioides*, to which it is next akin, though perfectly distinct.

Root perennial.

The *radical leaves* are opposite, lanceolate, acute, irregularly crenate, marked with three nerves, perfectly smooth, pale and somewhat cartilaginous in the margin, and very much resemble those of *Gentiana acaulis*. Those on the stem are strikingly different, obtuse and hairy.

Stem ascending, smooth below, hairy in the upper part.

Corymbus somewhat spiked, consisting of many flowers.

Footstalks hairy.

Calyx hairy, quadrifid, equal.

Corolla large, beautiful, of a deep blue.

Antheræ heart-shaped, large.

* *V. gentianoides.* *Vahl Symb. Bot. p. 1.*

The figure of Buxbaum erroneously represents the plant altogether smooth, and the floral leaves acute.

V. filiformis, floribus solitariis, foliis cordatis crenatis pedunculo brevioribus, calycinis lanceolatis.

V. orientalis, foliis hederæ terrestres, magno flore. *Tourn. Cor. et Herb. Buxb. C.* 1, p. 25, t. 40, f. 1.

Gathered by Tournefort in the east. Buxbaum says it grows about hedges in Bithynia. It should be placed next to *V. hederifolia*.

Root appears to be annual.

Stems filiform, procumbent.

Leaves alternate, on short footstalks, subrotundo-cordate, crenate, (not lobed or cut) notches about three on each side, clothed with a few scattered articulated hairs, as in *V. hederifolia*.

Flowers solitary, axillary, large.

Footstalks filiform, downy, three times longer than the leaves.

Leaves of the *Calyx* equal, lanceolate, slightly downy.

Corolla twice as long as the calyx, spreading, blue.

Capsule obcordate, reticulated.

This plant is very like *V. hederifolia* in many respects, but is sufficiently distinguished from that species by its leaves being crenate and not five-lobed, the segments of its calyx lanceolate, not ovate, and by the very long filiform footstalks of its flowers.